

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 CANBER 04051 270920Z

43

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 DRC-01 /090 W

----- 048425

R 270800Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3523

INFO AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

AMCONSUL BRISBANE BY POUCH

AMCONSUL PERTH BY POUCH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CANBERRA 4051

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, AS, US

SUBJECT: FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS CONCERNING ATTACK ON AMBASSADOR BY
SENATOR WILLIAM BROWN, VICTORIA

REF: A) CANBERRA 4015; B) CANBERRA 4029

1. SUMMARY: REPERCUSSIONS OF SENATOR BROWN'S ATTACKS ON
AMBASSADOR GREEN (REFTELS) CONTINUE, WITH PRESS CONTINUING TO
LEAD BROWN TO MAKE INCREASINGLY WILD STATEMENTS. BROWN HAS NOW
ADVOCATED RECALL OF AMBASSADOR, DEVELOPMENT WHICH IS WELL BEYOND
REALM OF THE POSSIBLE. NUMEROUS GOVERNMENT AND OPPOSITION FIGURES
HAVE EXPRESSED REGRET OVER INCIDENT, BOTH PUBLICLY IN MEDIA AND
PRIVATELY OVER PHONE TO AMBASSADOR. SOURCE OF ATTACKS APPEARS
INCREASINGLY TO BE SOCIALIST LEFT FACTION OF ALP IN VICTORIA.
END SUMMARY.

2. REPERCUSSIONS OF ATTACK ON AMBASSADOR GREEN BY SENATOR
WILLIAM BROWN (ALP, VICTORIA), AS REPORTED IN REFTELS, CONTINUE.
PRESS REPORTS SENATOR BROWN AS STATING TO MEDIA JUNE 27 THAT HE
WOULD LIKE TO SEE AMBASSADOR GREEN RECALLED FROM AUSTRALIA,
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 CANBER 04051 270920Z

ACCUSING HIM OF TRYING TO UNDERMINE LABOR GOVERNMENT. BROWN

ALLEGED AMBASSADOR SPOKE TO SELECTED GROUPS OF BUSINESSMEN DURING RECENT ELECTION CAMPAIGN ON NEED TO ELECT LIBERAL GOVERNMENT (THIS COMPLETELY FALSE). BROWN SAID HE HAD NO DOUBT THAT U.S. DOD WOULD BE UPSET BY HIS CRITICISM OF AMBASSADOR.

3. IN TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR JUNE 26 MINISTER FOR DEFENSE LANCE BARNARD EXPRESSED DEEP REGRET OVER REMARKS BY SENATOR BROWN ON JUNE 25, ATTACKING AMBASSADOR (REF A). BARNARD SAID HE FELT BROWN MUST BE PARANOID AND ADDED HE HAD RECEIVED NUMBER OF CALLS FROM MEMBERS OF GOVERNMENT EXPRESSING SHOCK OVER STATEMENT WHICH, IN HIS VIEW, CERTAINLY DOES NOT REPRESENT VIEW OF LABOR GOVERNMENT. BARNARD SUBSEQUENTLY TOLD MEDIA JUNE 26 THAT HE HAD PHONED AMBASSADOR TO SAY THAT LABOR GOVERNMENT COMPLETELY DISSOCIATED ITSELF FROM CRITICISM MADE BY SENATOR BROWN AND HAD TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT BROWN'S VIEWS WERE NOT RPT NOT THOSE OF LABOR GOVERNMENT.

4. SECRETARY OF DEPT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, ALAN RENOUF, PHONED AMBASSADOR JUNE 26 TO EXPRESS REGRET HE AND OTHER OFFICERS IN DFA FELT OVER STATEMENT BY SENATOR BROWN, WHICH HE TERMS AN "EXTRAORDINARILY BLOODY BUSINESS." RENOUF ADDED THAT, THOUGH IT WAS HIGHLY IMPROPER FOR BROWN TO HAVE MADE SUCH A STATEMENT, RENOUF HOPED AMBASSADOR WOULD NOT TAKE IT TOO SERIOUSLY. AMBASSADOR RESPONDED THAT PERSONALLY HE DID NOT TAKE BROWN STATEMENT SERIOUSLY AND QUOTED REMARK BY SIR JAMES PLIMSOLL (FORMER AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR TO WASHINGTON) TO HIM TO THE EFFECT THAT IF NOBODY ATTACKED AMBASSADOR GREEN, HE WASN'T DOING HIS JOB. AMBASSADOR ADDED THAT WE ARE NOT SAYING ANYTHING TO MEDIA.

5. DEPUTY LEADER OF AUSTRALIAN COUNTRY PARTY, IAN SINCLAIR, SENT TELEGRAM TO AMBASSADOR JUNE 26 STATING HE WAS "PERSONALLY DISGUSTED WITH ATTACK MADE ON YOU BY SENATOR BROWN. HIS ATTACK I VIEW AS A GROSS DISCOURTESY TO YOU AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. THE OVER-WHELMING MAJORITY OF THE AUSTRALIAN PEOPLE DO NOT SHARE THE VIEWS OF SENATOR BROWN...."

6. CONTROVERSY OVER SENATOR BROWN'S ATTACK ON AMBASSADOR CONTINUED IN MEDIA JUNE 27 WITH BROWN RETURNING TO THE ATTACK WITH ACCUSATION THAT AUSTRALIA MORE VULNERABLE THAN CHILE AND QTE I DON'T WANT TO SEE HAPPENING HERE WHAT RECENTLY HAPPENED IN CHILE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 CANBER 04051 270920Z

END QTE. BROWN SAID HE WAS REFERRING TO THE ALLEGED CIA INVOLVEMENT IN COUP AGAINST PRESIDENT ALLENDE. REFERRING TO AMBASSADOR, BROWN STATED QTE THIS MAN IS THE MOST SKILLED, THE MOST TRAINED TECHNICIAN. HE WAS SENT HERE ON A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. HE HAS ALWAYS BEEN SENT TO TROUBLE SPOTS BY THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. END QTE.

7. RADIO AND TV COVERAGE HAS BEEN EXTENSIVE. COMMERCIAL PROGRAM

QT TODAY END QTE (SHOWN SYDNEY, MELBOURNE, CANBERRA, BRISBANE, ADELAIDE) HAD VERY FAVORABLE COVERAGE BY MIKE PALMOS, AUSTRALIAN REPORTER WHO WAS IN INDONESIA 1965, DEBUNKING CHARGE AND ROUNDLY CRITICIZING BROWN.

8. NATIONAL DAILY "AUSTRALIAN" OF JUNE 27 CARRIES EDITORIAL ENTITLED QTE BROWN VERSUS GREEN END QTE SAYING THAT QTE MOST BEWILDERING ASPECT OF BROWN'S REMARKS IS THAT THEY ARE SO POINTLESS. END QTE EDIT REFERS TO CHARGE THAT MR. GREEN WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR REVOLUTIONS IN KOREA AND INDONESIA AS PARANOIA AND NOTES THAT HE HAS ALSO SERVED IN OTHER COUNTRIES INCLUDING SWEDEN, WHICH HAVE BEEN REMARKABLE FOR THEIR INTERNAL STABILITY. ON BROWN'S CHARGE THAT AMBASSADOR IS DUTY-BOUND TO PROTECT HIS COUNTRY'S INTERESTS, EDIT SAYS THIS IS AMBASSADOR'S DUTY AND THAT QTE AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADORS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD PERFORM THIS TASK FORTUNATELY WITHOUT THE ABUSIVE RECEPTION THAT MR. GREEN HAS BEEN GIVEN. END QTE. EDIT ENDS ON NOTE THAT QTE AFFAIR MUST BE KEPT IN ITS DESERVED TEA CUP. SENATOR BROWN IS NOT A GREAT FORCE IN THE LABOR PARTY HE REPRESENTS MINORITY VIEW NO MORE THAN THAT END QTE.

9. EDITORIAL IN "CANBERRA TIMES" ENTITLED QTE A LOUDMOUTH REBUKED END QTE PRAISES ALP PRESIDENT HAWKE FOR HIS REBUKE TO SENATOR BROWN AND SAYS PERSONAL ATTACKS BASED ON IRRATIONAL ANTI-AMERICAN PREJUDICE ARE OUT OF PLACE AT ALL TIMES.

10. MELBOURNE "SUN" AFTERNOON OF JUNE 27 (ONE OF MOST IRRESPONSIBLE NEWSPAPERS IN AUSTRALIA) REPORTS THAT GEORGE CRAWFORD (FAR LEFTIST AND FORMER CHAIRMAN OF ALP IN VICTORIA) AND W. J. CURRAN (MEMBER OF ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE OF ALP IN VICTORIA) HAD BOTH EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR CHARGES BY SENATOR BROWN. SIMILAR SUPPORT FOR BROWN, ACCORDING TO "SUN", WAS EXPRESSED BY A. E. BULL, VICTORIAN BRANCH SECRETARY OF WATERSIDE WORKERS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 CANBER 04051 270920Z

FEDERATION. BULL HAD PREVIOUSLY LED BOYCOTTS OF AMERICAN SHIPPING IN JANUARY, 1973, FOLLOWING AMERICAN BOMBING OF HANOI AND HAIPHONG IN DECEMBER, 1972. CRAWFORD, CURRAN, AND BULL ARE ALL ASSOCIATED WITH EXTREME LEFT OF AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY.

11. COMMENT: BROWN'S EVIDENT ATTEMPT TO GARNER HEADLINES FOR HIMSELF BY ATTACKING AMBASSADOR HAS SUCCEEDED ALL TOO WELL BUT HAS CLEARLY BOOMERANGED AGAINST HIM. PRESS IS, OF COURSE, PURSUING SENATOR BROWN AND LEADING HIM ON TO INCREASINGLY WILD AND IRRESPONSIBLE CHARGES. ISSUE MAY RECEDE IN NEXT FEW DAYS, BUT PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM, AT HIS NEXT PRESS CONFERENCE (PRESUMABLY TUESDAY, JULY 2) WILL PROBABLY BE ASKED QUESTION AND THIS WILL GIVE STORY FURTHER LIFE. RESPONSE PUBLICLY AND PRIVATELY BY NUMEROUS AUSTRALIAN LEADERS OF BOTH GOVERNMENT AND OPPOSITION HAS ADEQUATELY ANSWERED SENATOR BROWN, AND WE DO NOT ANTICIPATE

STORY WILL CONTINUE MUCH LONGER IN ITS PRESENT FORM. VICTORIAN
SOCIALIST LEFT, WITH WHICH BROWN IS ASSOCIATED, HAS BEEN
VIRTUALLY HIS ONLY SUPPORT TO DATE. SOCIALIST LEFT HAS BEEN
PURSUING THIS LINE AGAINST AMBASSADOR SINCE BEFORE HIS ARRIVAL IN
AUSTRALIA AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO, PERHAPS INTERMITTENTLY BUT
PROBABLY MORE STRIDENTLY. CERTAINLY SO FAR WE BELIEVE VICTORIAN
SOCIALIST LEFT IS NET LOSER OVER THIS WHOLE AFFAIR.
GREEN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, PERSONAL OPINION, PROPAGANDA, LEGISLATORS, AMBASSADORS, POPULAR RESENTMENT, EXTREMISTS, SPEECHES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 JUN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974CANBER04051
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740170-0048
From: CANBERRA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974069/aaaaahq.tel
Line Count: 177
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A) CANBERRA 4015; B) CANBERRA 4029
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 JUL 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <24 MAR 2003 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS CONCERNING ATTACK ON AMBASSADOR BY SENATOR WILLIAM BROWN, VICTORIA
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, AS, US, (BROWN, SENATOR), (GREEN, AMBASSADOR)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005